THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir. State Government requested for revival of the said mill.

(b) The mill was taken over in 1974 and an amount of Rs. 3.71 crores was incurred on modernization of the mill.

(c) An amount of Rs. 8.89 Crores was provided to this mill for meeting shortfall in wages and salaries as budgetary support between 1996-97 till date. Due to uneconomic operations, the mill has not been turning out any production since 1993 and workers are being given idle wages. The Operating Agency (IFCI), after assessing the viability, recommended for closure of the mill. BIFR circulated the Draft Rehabilitation Scheme for objections and suggestions of all agencies including the State Government. The final decision regarding revival or closure of the mill is be taken by BIFR.

Closure of NTC and STC Mills

2573. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) how many NTC and STC textiles mills lying closed at present;

(b) how many have lost employment;

(c) whether Government propose to give priority to reopen these mills in the State, particularly in Madhya Pradesh;

(d) if so, by when these will start functioning; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) and (b) Ajudhia Textile Mills was the only NTC mill closed in pursuance of orders of Hon'ble Supreme Court on polluting industries. Apart from this, there are 43 NTC mills in 8 sick NTC subsidiaries, which are not having any activity. However, none of them are 'closed' and the workers are being paid idle wages.

There are 40 STC mills reported to be having no activity, which are under the management of respective State Governments. The status

of these mills is being obtained from the respective State Governments and would be laid on the table of the House.

(c) to (e) As far as NTC mills are concerned, including the mills in Madhya Pradesh, Government proposed to revive all revivable units and close the non-revivable ones after giving attractive VRS options to workers. Operating agencies of BIFR, based on the viability studies of the mills, submitted Draft Rehabilitation Schemes to BIFR. BIFR circulated the same for objection & Suggestions and posted them for hearing in February 2002 for finalisation. Final decision regarding revival or closure of the mills will be taken by BIFR.

Review for Promotion and Development of Handicrafts

2574. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of review for promotion and development of handicrafts in the country, State-wise;

(b) the details of selected areas where review was undertaken; and

(c) the funds allocated during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 for upgradation, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) and (b) The existing schemes of the Government of India for promotion and development of handicrafts in the country as whole have been reviewed. Based on the review, some schemes have been phased out/ merged and the number of schemes has been reduced from 48 in beginning of 9th Five Year Plan to 34. A new scheme named Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana has been launched for sustainable development of identified craft clusters. State-wise or area-wise review has not been undertaken.

(c) Funds are not allocated state-wise in the Handicraft Sector. However, the funds allocated for upgradation of skills of traditional artisans and craftsmen in the country during 1998-1999, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 has been to the tune of Rs. 3228.00 lakhs, Rs. 3273.10 lakhs and Rs. 3025.10 lakhs respectively.